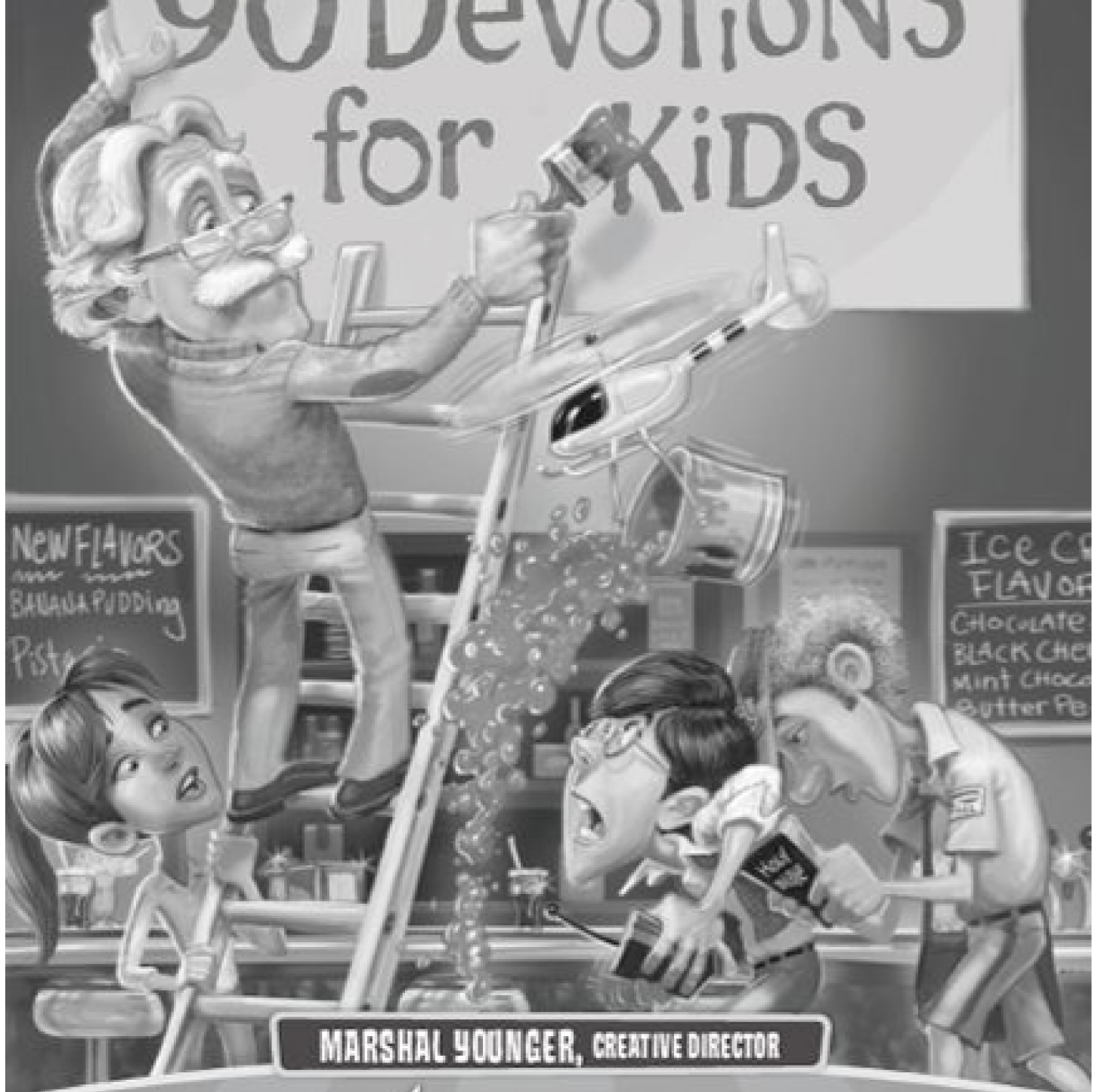


FOCUS ON THE FAMILY PRESENTS

*Adventures in*  
**ODYSSEY**

# 90 Devotions for Kids



**MARSHAL YOUNGER, CREATIVE DIRECTOR**



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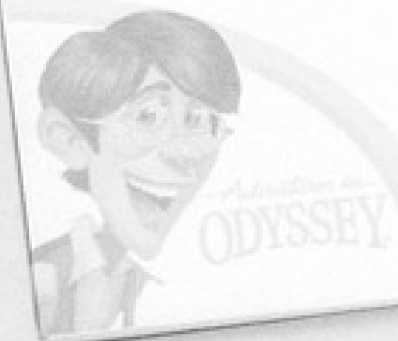
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.....THEME ONE .....

# Salvation

## Salvation Theme Memory Verse Ephesians 2:5



[God] gave us new life because of what Christ has done. He gave us life even when we were dead in sin. God's grace has saved you.

**I**t was as if a bomb went off. The walls and ceiling shook. The prison doors broke open. The chains on Paul's and Silas's feet came loose.

It was an earthquake, and the jailer woke to see all the doors wide open. It was his job to keep the doors locked and the prisoners inside. He thought all of the prisoners were gone. He knew that he would be punished if they escaped.

Rather than wait for the punishment, he drew his sword to kill himself. But Paul shouted, "Don't do it! We're all still here. Just don't kill yourself!"

The jailer was moved by their concern for him. The God of Paul and Silas—the One who had caused the earthquake—was also a God of compassion. God's loving-kindness was the reason Paul and Silas were being compassionate. The jailer wanted this compassionate God for himself. So he asked Paul, "What must I do to be saved?" (See Acts 16:24–34 for the whole story.)



Being “saved” is the most important decision a person will ever make. Phrases like “let Jesus come into your heart,” “accept Jesus as your Savior,” and “be born again” are all talking about the same thing—salvation.

But what does salvation mean? Why should you accept salvation? And if you decide you want to be saved, how do you go about it? Those topics will be explored all this week. And if you want the God in your life who can create an earthquake and offer undeserved compassion—all in the same night—just ask yourself the question, “What must I do to be saved?”

## Prayer

Dear God,

Thank You for the salvation that You offer all of us.  
Thank You for offering me compassion that I don't  
deserve. Help me to fully understand this gift.

Amen.

Devo  
1

# What Salvation Is Not

Today's Verse—Ephesians 2:8

God's grace has saved you because of your faith in Christ. Your salvation doesn't come from anything you do. It is God's gift.

**T**wo boys wanted a drink of water. The first boy mowed someone's lawn so that he could earn enough money to buy a shovel. With the shovel, he dug a well in his backyard. Exhausted, he finally hit water, and the well filled up. Then he mowed three more lawns so that he could earn enough money for the rigging that would lower a bucket into the well and pull up water.

Next, he cut down a tree in his backyard, peeled the bark off the thin branches, and braided them together to create his own rope. With the rope, he could lower the bucket into the well and retrieve the water. He also took glass-blowing classes so that he could learn how to make his own drinking glass.

After two weeks of backbreaking work, the boy finally got his glass of water. He lowered the bucket into the ten-foot well he had dug and drew the water out of the well with the rope he had fashioned. He poured the water into the glass he had made, and then he took a very long drink.

The second boy went to a water fountain, turned it on, and drank all the water he wanted.

The first boy worked hard for his glass of water, but salvation cannot be earned by hard work. We cannot earn salvation by going to church, or reading the Bible a lot, or praying a lot, or being nice to people. All of those things are good, but salvation isn't something we can work for.

Salvation is like the water fountain. It's a gift. Jesus has already done the work for



### Connie's Corner

Yesterday, for some reason, Whit's End had no customers for hours! So I swept the floor, washed down all the machines twice, and rearranged the menu board so that the ice-cream flavors were in order of popularity. Poor black cherry!

I guess I kept myself busy because I felt guilty for getting paid for doing nothing. It also took me awhile to accept that I did nothing to deserve my salvation either. But I shouldn't feel guilty. Salvation is free.

us on the cross. Just as the second boy gladly accepted the water from the fountain, all we need to do is accept God's gift of salvation by putting our faith in Jesus.

### Daily Challenge

Read John 19, the story about Jesus' trial and crucifixion on the cross. That was the "work" Jesus did for you. Thank God in prayer for His sacrifice.

• • •

### Salvation Theme Memory Verse—Ephesians 2:5

[God] gave us new life because of what Christ has done. He gave us life even when we were dead in sin. God's grace has saved you.



# Devo 2

## What Salvation Is

Today's Verse—2 Corinthians 5:17

Anyone who believes in Christ is a new creation.  
The old is gone! The new has come!

In the *Adventures in Odyssey* episode\* “Imagination Station Revisited, I and II” (album 50), Kelly didn’t understand why Jesus had to die on a cross. For the answer to that question, let’s go back to the beginning. And by “back,” I mean W-A-A-A-Y back.

God created Adam and Eve. When they were created, the world was perfect: no pain, no death, no math homework. How great is that? But then Satan showed up and tempted Adam and Eve to disobey God. When Adam and Eve took bites of the fruit that God told them not to eat, they brought sin into the world. The world was no longer perfect. Romans 6:23 says, “When you sin, the pay you get is death.” This means that, because of sin, all humans have to die. All of us sin (Romans 3:23), so every person dies.

But this is the cool part. Romans 6:23 doesn’t end with death. The verse ends with “but God gives you the gift of eternal life because of what Christ Jesus our Lord has done.” God sent His Son Jesus to earth for a lot of reasons. Jesus came to teach, to heal, and to show His love for everyone. But the main reason He came to earth was to die in our place. Jesus took all of our sin on Himself and died on the cross so that we don’t have to pay the consequences for our sins. We can have eternal life in heaven because of God’s gift of His Son’s life.

Salvation is when we first believe in our hearts that Jesus did this for us. We ask for His forgiveness and His gift of eternal life. When we do that, we are given the gift of Jesus in our life—and what a life that is! Not only is it the best life we can imagine; it’s

\* For more information about air dates for *Adventures in Odyssey*® audio dramas, visit [www.whitsend.org](http://www.whitsend.org) and click on “Radio.”



### Loquacious Learning with Eugene

The word *salvation* comes from a Greek word that means “to deliver.” “Deliver” in this sense isn’t like delivering mail. It’s what God did when He brought Moses and the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt. The word *deliver* could be translated “to rescue.” We are, in essence, “rescued” from sin when we’re saved. We are definitely not “mailed” from sin. That would be utterly preposterous.

an eternal life. And then we offer up our lives to Him. We tell God that we are going to try to live the way He wants us to live.

When we are saved, we’re called a “new creation.” Luke 19 talks about a man named Zacchaeus. You remember, he’s the “wee little man” from the old Sunday school song. Zacchaeus was a tax collector who cheated people out of their money. He had no friends. But then one day, he climbed a tree to see Jesus, and Jesus noticed him. Jesus showed that He loved Zacchaeus even though no one else did. Jesus came over for dinner, and Zacchaeus decided to do the right thing. He gave back all the money he had stolen, and more. His life was changed because of Jesus. In verse 9, Jesus said to Zacchaeus, “Today salvation has come to your house.” When salvation comes to us, our lives are changed too.

### Daily Challenge

Find and read the Bible stories about these people: Zacchaeus (Luke 19), Paul (Acts 22), and Nicodemus (John 3). All three of these men were delivered from something. What were they delivered from?

• • •

### Salvation Theme Memory Verse—Ephesians 2:5

[God] gave us new life because of what Christ has done. He gave us life even when we were dead in sin. God’s grace has saved you.